

UCLA Faculty Association

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Wednesday, November 5, 2025

I never promised you a Rose Bowl?



From [Patch](#): *The city of Pasadena announced [last] Thursday it has filed a lawsuit that aims to hold UCLA to its lease agreement to play its home football games at the Rose Bowl, with the university believed to be exploring a possible move to SoFi Stadium in Inglewood. "On Wednesday, October 29, 2025, the city of Pasadena took the unfortunate but necessary step of filing a lawsuit in Los Angeles*

Superior Court to enforce a lease agreement between the Rose Bowl Stadium and UCLA," according to a statement from the city. "That lease agreement is unambiguous, explicitly stating there is no option for UCLA to terminate the lease prior to its expiration in 2044."

Many Osako, UCLA vice chancellor for strategic communications, issued a statement saying the university has not made any decisions about the future home of Bruin football games...

Full story at <https://patch.com/california/santamonica/s/jqkct/ucla-footballs-possible-move-to-sofi-stadium-prompts-rose-bowl-lawsuit>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [athletics](#), [UCLA](#)

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

They don't quite say don't give it

STATEMENT FROM THE UC ACADEMIC COUNCIL REGARDING DISCLOSURES OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION (PII)

With unanimous resolve, the Academic Council addresses University of California President Miliken concerning the disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII) of faculty, students, and staff to the federal government amid an ongoing investigation of UC Berkeley by the Office for Civil Rights within the U.S. Department of Education into alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

President Miliken's message to the UC community on October 3 describes the University's actions as undertaken to comply with federal law, as written and interpreted, and refers to several months of anonymization efforts. The attendant FAQ** further states that there have been prior federal investigations, demands for records, and PII disclosures by UC and many other institutions.*

Nevertheless, in this volatile climate—amid systematic and unprecedented federal actions designed to usurp control over U.S. higher education—universities must recognize that they can no longer rely on the ethos of collaboration and goodwill that has historically defined their relationships with the federal government. Consequently, we assert that the disclosure of PII can no longer be regarded as a standard procedural matter, irrespective of pre-existing agreements or interpretations of federal compliance requirements.

These disclosures have already chilled academic speech and instilled fear in our community of punitive measures and targeted threats. Critically, named persons may not yet have had the opportunity to contest allegations, correct University records, or mitigate risks. These concerns are now amplified by press reports of expanded and unrestricted access to federal databases, raising the specter of misuse of sensitive information. While notifying affected individuals only after disclosure is preferable to silence, the post-facto timing has further eroded institutional trust.



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The Academic Council therefore calls on the UC Office of the President and the UC Board of Regents to assume a greater burden for timely individual notification and to establish systemwide and transparent criteria for decision-making and communication about PII disclosure demands—developed in consultation with the Academic Senate.

The Academic Council further calls on the UC Office of the President and the UC Board of Regents to do all within their power to safeguard the privacy of faculty, students, and staff when PII disclosure poses undue risks to individuals, and to allocate University resources to provide affected individuals with all due legal assistance and safety services.

Lastly, the Academic Council calls on the UC Office of the President and the UC Board of Regents to consult with UC faculty with relevant expertise when evaluating whether the University has a legal basis to contest or limit future requests from the Office for Civil Rights and other federal agencies.

We stand ready to work collaboratively with the administration to defend the people and principles of the University of California.

Adopted by the Academic Council on October 27, 2025

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Source: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/council-chair-to-president-council-statement-pii.pdf.

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*<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/update-uc-president-james-b-milliken>.

**https://ucop.edu/communications/_files/faqs-on-federal-investigations-and-information-sharing.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [Milliken](#), [politics](#), [UC](#), [UC-Berkeley](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 151

From the [Yale Daily News](#): *In a recent push by the French department to make its offerings less daunting to students, the department has attempted to reduce the workload demands of some of its courses. This semester, many French courses designated as L1 through L4 have eliminated final exams and adopted a weekly "4 plus 1 model," which consists of four days of in-person instruction and one asynchronous class on Friday. "We want to attract students to the study of French as they would to any other language," Constance Sherak, the department's language program director, wrote in a statement to the News. "Rigor doesn't mean an unsurmountable degree of work and shouldn't discourage students from pursuing a language they want to study for their own personal reasons."* ...



"There was definitely a sense among many students that while French language courses were rigorous and effective, they were too difficult in terms of workload and grading," [Department Chair Maurice] Samuels wrote...

Full story at <https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2025/10/24/to-woo-students-french-department-makes-courses-easier/>.

From the [LA Times](#): *The University of Southern California has issued layoff notices to more than 900 employees since July amid a fiscal crisis that has battered morale and strained resources. The cuts, detailed in a Monday letter to the USC community by interim President Beong-Soo Kim, are central to an effort to erase a budget deficit that ballooned to more than \$200 million. The layoffs have included employees across the university and its health system, including student academic advisers.*

But Kim, who succeeded former President Carol Folt on July 1, wrote that as many 200 of those who received layoff notices could remain with the university in new positions. And he noted that the job cuts are nearly complete...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-11-03/layoffs-usc-fiscal-crisis>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [USC](#), [Yale](#)

Animals

Did you know?

Only registered service animals are permitted indoors at UCLA. No pets or daytime visits from non-service animals are allowed inside any campus building.

Service animals must be approved by UCLA IRM (Insurance & Risk Management)/EDMS (Employee Disability Management Services) as part of a formal accommodation. Even if your dog is certified elsewhere, UCLA must approve it before entry. Begin the process at EDMS 310-794-6948 or <https://irm.ucla.edu/disability-mgt>

Dogs must be on a physical leash no longer than 6 feet at all times, even inside offices with closed doors. They must remain under the direct control of their owner and may not be left

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unattended.

Service animals are not permitted to urinate or defecate indoors. Owners must curb their dogs outside and ensure proper cleanup.

Any violations may be reported to campus authorities. Costs for cleaning or damage may be assigned to the owner personally.

For full details, please review the UCLA policy here: UCLA Policy 135:
<https://www.adminpolicies.ucla.edu/APP/Number/135>

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Monday, November 3, 2025

Athletic Investments - Part 3

We are following up on the proposed investment of pension and maybe endowment funds in some kind of deal with the Big Ten athletic conference which UCLA joined - setting off a months-long brouhaha at the Regents after an intervention by the governor.*

There are questions, to say the least, about the use of pension funds to support the athletic program. Presumably, it was "sold" to the Regents during a closed-door meeting as a good deal by investment criteria.

Yours truly does not know what "a 100-year investment" means. See below. Does it mean we have to wait that long to determine if it was a good deal? If so, a not-so-nice interpretation would mean that no one currently alive can be held responsible for the long-term results. Does it make sense to talk about 100 years in the context of college sports which are undergoing rapid change due to such factors the legal climate surround pay for players and the changes in technology for delivery of sports events to households?



From the [Daily Bruin](#): *UC Investments offered \$2.4 billion for a 10% stake in a new entity that would manage the Big Ten's league-wide media rights and sponsorship deals. The UC said it would use a pension fund to invest in Big Ten Enterprises, which would then direct funds to individual Big Ten schools' athletic departments, according to ESPN. The UC's investment arm manages investment funds for the University and provides fiduciary oversight, managing about \$190 billion in its portfolio, according to the office's website...*

UC Investments considers Big Ten Enterprises "a 100-year investment," a UC Investments spokesperson said in an emailed statement. They added in the statement that UC Investments has offered other Big Ten universities the chance to buy its stake if they are seeking a larger amount of ownership for themselves. "Our prospective partnership reflects our shared belief in stability, excellence, and purpose," said Jagdeep Singh Bachher, the UC's chief investment officer, in the statement. "UC Investments would be proud to support the Big Ten's enduring legacy and its continued commitment to the success of student-athletes and scholars alike." ...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2025/10/30/uc-investments-offers-2-4-billion-for-stake-in-new-big-ten-entity>.

Note that [ESPN](#) reported that the University of Michigan and USC concluded that the deal was NOT a great investment. See:

https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46620086/proposed-big-ten-private-capital-deal-holding-pattern.

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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/10/athletic-investments-part-2.html>; <https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/10/athletic-investments.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, governor, pension, U of Michigan, UC Regents, UCLA, USC

In Case You Missed It

Statement of UC President James Milliken from the [LA Times](#): *Over the course of just three days recently, five scientists affiliated with the University of California won Nobel prizes... But the symbiotic relationship between the federal government and our universities — one that has delivered so much for America, its people and its economy — is now at risk. Currently in Washington, there are plans to cut research funding by as much as 50%, threatening to cede America's position as a leader in research to other nations, including some of our most determined competitors.*

America's global leadership in science didn't happen by accident. It took farsighted bipartisan policies and years of investment. In 1945, Vannevar Bush, an American scientist who oversaw key research programs that contributed to Allied victory in World War II, delivered to President Truman an ambitious plan to build on the technological advances that had helped win the war and position the United States for global leadership in the modern era...

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Since 1945, scientists at American universities have won more than half of all Nobel prizes in physics, chemistry, medicine and economics. U.S. scientists have also published more research, been cited more often by other scientists and earned more patents than scientists from any other country.

...We're already seeing the cracks in this system. The uncertainty around federal research funding over the last eight months has caused top

researchers to leave prestigious positions at American institutions for opportunities in China, Canada and Europe. This "brain drain" will only continue if America doesn't recommit to scientific research. Also, international student enrollment is down 20% this year, which means that some of the world's most talented students are choosing to go elsewhere. And a new, expensive tax for every new post-doc or young investigator on an H1-B visa — a major source of expertise from abroad to fill unmet needs — will further restrict the talent flow.

Since 1945, America has successfully dominated scientific innovation thanks to visionary leaders, wise policy and bipartisan support for doing what is best for our country... Only by continuing these efforts will we ensure that the U.S. remains the leader in global discovery and progress. Without that, everything achieved for America through generations of investment and commitment is at risk.

Full statement at <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2025-10-28/nobel-prizes-university-of-california-research-funding>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: Milliken, politics, UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 150

From the Wall St. Journal: ...Schools that still use legacy preferences are concentrated among private universities, including all eight schools in the Ivy League. That is despite the sharp decline in the practice overall, with about 25% of schools now giving such preferences, down from half in 2015, according to a study by Education Reform Now, which advocates expanding access for underrepresented students on college campuses. Since the 2023 Supreme Court ruling, the number of schools using legacy preferences is down 18%.

Students who claim legacy status and whose families are among the wealthiest 1% of Americans are about five times as likely to be admitted to an Ivy Plus college as nonlegacy peers with comparable grades and test scores whose parents didn't attend the college, according to research from Harvard University Professor Raj Chetty and his lab, *Opportunity Insights*. (Ivy Plus schools include the Ivies and other top institutions.)



Some schools say legacy admissions help with fundraising, foster a sense of community and build loyalty. "We think it's an important part of who we are as an institution that creates a community that persists long after somebody graduates," Princeton University President Christopher Eisgruber wrote recently.

On its website, Princeton says "the legacy preference operates as a 'tie-breaker' between equally qualified applicants."

"The overwhelming majority of alumni children who are admitted—all but about 30 a year—would be accepted without consideration of their legacy status," the school says.

But more lawmakers and college presidents say they can no longer defend it... In 2024, California, Illinois, Maryland and Virginia joined Colorado in enacting laws that restrict legacy preferences...

Full story at <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/legacy-college-admissions-preferences-backlash-772c88be>.

From Inside Higher Ed: Thanks to a series of settlements and court orders, some universities that had their grants frozen by the Trump administration earlier this year have seen that funding restored. But others are still trying to unfreeze the grants and learn more about why they were suspended in the first place. Since March, the Trump administration has said that it put nearly \$6 billion on hold at nine universities. Three universities—Columbia, Penn and Brown—cut deals with the administration to restore the funding, while the University of California, Los Angeles, and Harvard got the money back via court orders. The fate of the remaining four freezes—at Duke, Cornell, Northwestern and Princeton Universities—remains uncertain. Princeton has seen about half of its frozen grants restored, President Christopher Eisgruber told the alumni magazine in late August. Roughly \$200 million was put on hold initially...

At Northwestern, the Trump administration reportedly froze about \$790 million in early April, though officials said at the time they never received formal notification about why the funds were put on hold. Since then, Northwestern officials have said they are working to restore the grants—a process that apparently hasn't gone smoothly. Northwestern University interim president Henry Bienen told *The Daily Northwestern* in an Oct. 17 interview that "a negotiation really requires two parties, at least, and at the present time, there's not been anybody on the other end of the line." ...

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Contributors

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Cornell University is also in talks with the administration to find a solution to the freeze. However, President Michael Kotlikoff recently shared new information about the impact of the freeze that calls into question the Trump administration's figures. Trump officials told media outlets in April that they froze more than \$1 billion at Cornell. But Kotlikoff said last week in his State of the University address that Cornell is actually facing about \$250 million in canceled or unpaid research funds... Kotlikoff added that Cornell has been talking with the federal government for six months "to identify their concerns, provide evidence to address them, and return to a productive partnership." In August, Bloomberg reported that the White House wanted to reach a \$100 million settlement with Cornell...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/politics-elections/2025/10/29/northwestern-cornell-still-working-unfreeze-federal>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

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